

FREEBIES 2

(Free Information for Reservists and Families & Friends of Reservists)

“Your 94th AW Family Support Center will continue to provide updates as we learn of new benefits”

Tax Preparation Information:

Installation TAX Centers

Filling your tax return doesn't have to be “taxing” or costly. The Fort McPherson Tax Assistance Program is ready to help for free. The Garrison Office of the Staff Judge Advocate has established a tax center in Building 179, through April 15. Tax volunteers help prepare taxes, answer questions and file forms electronically. Tax preparation appointments are scheduled weekdays from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm by calling the tax center at (404) 464-2438.

The NAS Atlanta Family Service Center provides Tax Assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) on Wednesdays during the tax season. Call 770-919-6735, ext. 124 to set up an appointment.

Tax Preparation Locations in the Cobb and Cherokee County

<u>Day</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
MONDAY	12:00-4:00	C.FREEMAN POOLE SR. CTR	4025 S. HURT RD,
MONDAY	9:00-1:00	GRITTER’S LIBRARY	880 SHAW PARK RD
TUESDAY	12:00-4:00	EAST COBB SR. CENTER	3332 SANDY PLAINS RD
TUESDAY	12:00-4:00	BARTOW SENIOR CENTER #2	ZENA ST, CARTERSVILLE
WEDNESDAY	10:00-2:00	KENNESAW SENIOR CENTER	2751 WATTS DRIVE,
WEDNESDAY	12:00-4:00	SMYRNA PUBLIC LIBRARY	100 VILLAGE GREEN CR
THURSDAY	12:00-4:00	WINDY HILL SENIOR CTR	1885 ROSWELL ST, SMYRNA
THURSDAY	9:00-1:00	MERCHANTS WALK LIBRARY	1315 JOHNSON FERRY RD
THURSDAY	12:00-4:00	BARTOW SENIOR CENTER #1	BEAVERS DR, CATERSVILLE
THURSDAY	12:00-4:00	WEST COBB SR. CENTER 4915	DALLAS HWY
FRIDAY	12:00-4:00	WINDY HILL SENIOR CENTER	1885 ROSWELL ST, SMYRNA
FRIDAY	12:00-4:00	MARIETTA-CENTRAL LIBRARY	266 ROSWELL ST
SATURDAY	9:00-1:00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	4583 CHURCH ST ACWORTH

Local Recreational Information:

The Atlanta Tour

Sponsored by Naval Air Station (NAS) Atlanta. You will be taken on an all day tour of the Atlanta area. (i.e. Lake Allatoona, Underground Atlanta, Fort McPherson, etc.). Stop by the Fleet & Family Service Center, bldg. 80 to sign up, or call (770) 919-6735, ext 124 for more information.

Dates for 2002: March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5 and December 3

Military discount on tickets for Atlanta Thrashers games.

When? 2002 Season Home Games

Who? All Active Duty U.S. military personnel, including active Reservists and National Guard, as well as all DoD civilian personnel

Where? Phillips Arena in downtown Atlanta

Present your valid military I.D. at the Phillips Area Box Office two hours before game time and receive two tickets at the discounted rate. **Tickets are limited and subject to availability.**

Tickets are \$5 or \$12 (Face value of \$10 or \$24)

Atlanta Hawks

The Atlanta Hawks are offering a \$5.00 discount on all tickets. Just show your ID card when ordering your tickets.

Armed Forces Vacation Club (AFVC)

Making resort vacations affordable!! With AFVC, you can enjoy resort accommodations for two to six people for less than you would pay for most hotels! **BOOK A FULL WEEK FOR ONLY \$234!** While most availability is during off-peak travel seasons, there are a wide variety of great destinations and times. Full details and samples of resort availability can be viewed at www.afvclub.com

Don't have Internet access? Pick up information at the NAS Atlanta Leisure Travel Office (ITT) or call the reservation center (1-800-724-9988) and give them account number 7033-00000.

Naval Air Station Atlanta's - World Famous Navy Lake Site At Lake Allatoona

(770) 974-6309 - Try their website www.nasatlanta.navy.mil/lakesite.html or e-mail address wfnls@aol.com for more information and reservations.

NAS Atlanta MWR Happenings

& other information visit <http://www.nasatlanta.navy.mil/qol.html>

Army MWR Happenings

Please visit <http://www.armymwr.com/>

AtlanTIX

Same day – ½ price tickets at the Visitor's Center, Underground Atlanta.

For descriptions & other show details visit http://www.atlantaperforms.com/we_provide/calendar/february-detail.asp

Southeastern Expeditions – Rafting (404) 329-0433

Discount in uniform or with ID card.

World of Coca-Cola (404) 676-5151

\$4 discount per person with ID card.

Orlando Area offers:

***Universal Orlando Resort* - “A Special Thank You to Our Heroes In Uniform”**

Active Military Personnel, Police, Firefighters and Rescue Personnel receive a FREE 4-Day Pass, which includes park-to-park access to Universal Studios Florida, Universal’s Islands of Adventure, and Wet and Wild Orlando water park until January 1 – April 30, 2002. **Plus, SAVE 50% off up to five additional tickets for family & friends!** Go to the special marked Heroes Salute windows at either Universal Orlando theme park to receive your free 4-day pass or to purchase discounted tickets for family and friends. Discounts also available for Universal Orlando Resort on-site hotels and other Orlando area hotels. Visit www.universalorlando.com for more information.

Disney Cruise Line – *Disney Cruise Line* is also extending special rates to active military personnel on all of its tropical cruise itineraries, as well as its land/sea packages, for most sailings through May 2002. The number of staterooms available at these special rates is limited. For more information or to book a Disney Cruise Line vacation, military personnel can visit their travel agent, www.disneycruise.com or call Disney Cruise Line at 888/325-2500.

Education Information:

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) & DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs):

USAF Reserve personnel assigned to Dobbins Air Reserve Base (ARB) and their spouses are eligible to take these types of exams at Dobbins ARB free of charge. Get college credit for what you know! Acceptable scores mean college credit for knowledge and experience you may already have. This program consists of a series of examinations that test college-level knowledge you may have gained through your job, reading, travel, or hobbies. A pre-test for all CLEP exams are required to be taken and a score of 50% or better must be achieved before the actual exam can be ordered. This will help you determine your level of knowledge in the specific subject area. Education office point of contact is Ms. Vanessa Miguel at (770) 919-5001, for more information and appointment scheduling for both pre-tests and exams.

University of Phoenix

A leading online university in the country, University of Phoenix Online offers both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees with 100% online convenience, customer service, and quality. Find out more today! Visit <http://www.military.com/Education/Lead1?ESCR=mr.nl&partner=18> for more information.

GI Bill Benefits Increased

As of January 1, 2002, Montgomery GI Bill benefits for active duty service members as well as Reserves and National Guard member have increased. Active duty personnel can now receive up to \$800 a month for 36 months of full-time training, up from the previous limit of \$650 per month. Reservists and National Guard members can now receive up to \$272 a month for education payments. To learn more about the GI Bill and how it benefits you and for information on scholarships and schools that value military experience, visit the Military.com Education Channel at: <http://www.military.com/Careers/Education/1,,11,00/html>

Upgrade Your Career! Get Your MBA, BA, AA Online

Get on the fast track to success! Earn your MBA, Bachelors or AA degree or Project Management certificate online via the *University Alliance*. With internet-based video streaming curriculum “NO Classroom Attendance” is required. Study anytime, anywhere, even when you travel, all without interrupting family or job responsibilities. VA approved, DANTES affiliated, Military Tuition Assistance covers up to 75%. Classes begin every 8 weeks. Advance your career! Visit <http://info.bisk.com/index.asp?Source=278S3>

Scholarship to soon be available

Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) Top 3 has volunteered to be the clearinghouse for a scholarship program. They are still awaiting Judge Advocate approval for the final document. Here's a heads up on the proposal:

Eligibility - E-8 or below or any family member of an E-8 or below, assigned to AFRC Command, currently enrolled in an associate or bachelor degree program in an accredited college or university with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

When the program is approved - you will have to send a letter of recommendation from your commanding officer or sponsor's commanding officer stating the level of commitment to academic pursuits and the AFRC. Also, a one-page essay outlining personal goals desired to further the individual's education. These will be sent to HQ AFRC Top 3, 1552nd Street, Robbins AFB, GA 31098-1635. The Scholarship amount will be \$500.00 per person

Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) Education Grant Deadline Approaching

AFAS officials have established an education grant program to help active duty Air Force families fulfill their education goals. But to qualify, interested students must apply by March 15. The General H. Arnold Education Grant Program is open to children of active duty, Title 10 Active Guard Reserves, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty and retirees from both active duty and the reserves. Contact AFAS headquarters at (800) 429-9475 or DSN 327-3072, or visit its Website at www.afas.org for information and application procedures on this and other AFAS programs.

Troops To Teachers Program Resurrected

DOD and the Education Department have resurrected the Troops To Teachers program with an \$18 million infusion from the fiscal 2002 federal budget. The new money will give retiring or separating service members a chance to become teachers. For more information on this program, visit your installation education office or the program Website at <http://www.voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt>. For more on education benefits and programs, see Military.com's education Channel at <http://www.military.com/Careers/Education1,,112,00.html>

Personal Financial Management Information:

2003 Pay Raise Projection Made

The Bush administration's budget proposals for 2003 are seeking an average raise of 4.1 percent for military salaries in January 2003, compared with a 2.6 percent average general schedule raise. For basic pay rates and other pay benefits information, see the Pay and Withholdings section at http://www.military.com/ResourceFileView?file=Active_Duty_Pay.htm

Low Interest Rates Good for Service members

Service members who are thinking about purchasing a home or are interested in refinancing their current mortgage at a lower interest rate can find information online at Military.com. In addition to providing free information on VA loans and conventional loans, Military.com has a short online form service members can fill out to receive more information. The service is free, and the form can be accessed at: http://www.military.com/Finance/Content?ESRC=mr.nl&file=apply_for_loan.htm&area=Content

Financial Readiness Program (FRP)

Fort McPherson Army Community Service Center's, Financial Readiness Program offers a wide range of services to assist service members, family members and civilian employees with their financial affairs. The program offers training and counseling. The FRP is designed to educate service members on their rights as consumers. The goal is to enlighten service members and their families on procedures used in businesses, business transactions they should stay away from and how to know when they are being taken advantage of. For further information, please call

(404) 464-2961; or DSN 361-2961 or email any questions to kovalskij@forscom.army.mil.

Food and Services Information:

Country Roadhouse Buffet & Grill (270 S Cobb Parkway, Marietta)
\$1.00 discount when in uniform!

Sonic Drive In (215 S Cobb Parkway SE, Marietta)
Gives discount to military members in uniform!

Pep Boys Automotive Supercenter – Car Repairs (1531 Cobb Pkwy SE Marietta)
Will give a military discount on purchases when requested!

Blimpie's Sub (803 Powder Springs St., SE, Marietta)
Will give 10% discount on purchases!

Subways Restaurant (270 Cobb Pkwy, Marietta)
FREE coke with sandwich purchase!

Regal Cinema (on Delk Rd)
Evening movies are discounted to \$5.00 regularly \$7.50!

Others:

Military.com

Visit <http://www.military.com> to view the military community's largest weekly benefits & Quality Of Life Newsletter.

TRICARE

TRICARE has a new service called TRICARE Smart that enables individuals or groups to order TRICARE printed brochures and booklets from their homepage. Go to the TRICARE website
<http://www.tricare.asod.mil>

The Teens & Youth

The Teens & Youth section of Air Force Crossroads includes forums, games, homework help, and more. Hope you are ready to have fun because the section of the Crossroads has tons to offer both kids and teenagers alike. From sports to arts to video games, you will find hours worth of information and entertainment that will keep you coming back for more. Go to:
<http://www.afcrossroads.com/kids/index.cfm>

Morale Minder

The Command has installed a new "Morale Minder" automated system to assist DoD military personnel when TDY to contact local families without the assistance of the Base Operator. This system is available 24/7 and all calls are limited by DOD Directives to 15 minutes. Please use the below information during your TDY to access local numbers (Area Codes 770, 678, 404) only. There is no automated system nor is there approval for long distance calls. Please be advised that all government communications is subject to monitoring.

INSTRUCTION FOR ACCESSING MORALE MINDER:

Morale Minder can only be access from Defense Switching Network (DSN), by dialing 625-1110
After dialing DSN 625-1110 you will enter the Dobbins menu.
Press (1) to place an off-base official or morale call. This will give you instructions on how to place the call.

After that press (1) again. This will give you the time limit of the call.

After that press (1) again. This will give you access for dialing your number.

When placing a call you can only dial a ten digit number (example: 770-919-5714) or whatever local area code needed, for toll free numbers you still dial the ten digit (example: 800-555-1212).

Same as above:

From the Dobbins menu press (1), after instructions press (1) again, after that press (1) again you will then have access to dial a local number.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Otis Sampson at 9-5714 for further information.

Remember – if you live outside of the greater Atlanta area you can contact the Base by calling 1-888-436-2247 and then dialing “9” and the last four digits of the number you are calling.